

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED
NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND.

THE DUBLIN CONFERENCE.

JUNE 4th.

MORNING SESSION:—NURSING EDUCATION.

It was a happy inspiration which made Dublin the meeting place of the first Annual Conference of the National Council of Trained Nurses, with its organization in the hands of the Irish Nurses' Association (one of the Societies affiliated to the National Council), for that Association had at its command all the elements which make for success,—a President in Miss Huxley, able and beloved; an organization through which it could readily select the right person for the right bit of work; and many willing heads and hands to cope with the details which make for successful organization, so when the Hon. President of the Conference, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who presided over the first Session, rose to declare the Conference open, in the large Hall kindly placed at the disposal of the Council by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, on the morning of June 4th, the Hall was filled with a representative and professional audience, which, throughout the two days' Conference, followed the speeches and joined in the discussions with keen interest.

Mrs. Fenwick first read the following telegram from Berlin, which was received with applause: "The German Nurses' hearts are with our dear Irish friends and their guests.—SISTER KARLL." She then said:—

MADAM PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

It is with all the joy and pride in the world that I declare open this Conference on Nursing, and the allied arts of Massage and Midwifery. With joy that we members of the National Council of Trained Nurses find ourselves the guests of our Irish Colleagues in the far-famed capital of their beautiful and romantic land; and with pride, that owing to the delightful courtesy of the faculty of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, we members of the interdependent craft of Nursing, are permitted to assemble for our first National Conference in this historic Hall.

This Conference is going to be a brilliant success—I am so sure of it that I do not hesitate to prophecy before the event—and well it deserves to be so.

When we realise all the thought and care which have gone to the preparation of the Programme, and all the generosity and talent which have been expended in arranging for our

relaxation, we should indeed be graceless if we did not from this hour, determine to throw all the best we possess into our conduct of the professional sessions—so that the discussions, and the conclusions at which we may arrive may have far-reaching results for the good of the whole community—and also to give evidence of all the *joie de vivre* of which we are capable, in our appreciation of the social amenities which are intended to relieve the tension of professional debate—and to bring us up smiling at every session.

In the conduct of our Conference we must realise the limitations of time. At the six meetings we intend to hold we can only touch the fringe of the stupendous question of the National Health—in the high standard of which, preventive and curative nursing play so important a part.

The questions selected for discussion are amongst those which appeal to our National Council as of urgent and imperative importance.

The educational curriculum of the Trained Nurse, which will take precedence at this morning's session. The organization of the Nursing Profession through the power of the State—of which its members form so beneficent a section. How Laws—in the making of which we have no part—affect our economic condition, and therefore our lives and character, our usefulness and content. Our responsibility towards helping to stamp out that group of diseases well named the Black Plague. How we may best help those who, through a faulty social system, find themselves from birth handicapped by poverty and heredity, or broken by misfortune, and dependent in sickness upon national charity administered through the Poor Law. The preventive nursing and care of the children in the State Supported Schools, a movement fraught with illimitable possibilities for their welfare, and the Training and Status of those engaged in Midwifery, and the application of Massage.

Here we have a real live programme, and to do it justice we must work at once.

It is therefore with very great pleasure that I present to you Miss Margaret Huxley, the President of this Conference, and invite her to deliver to you an Address of Welcome, and that I offer to her, in the name of the National Council of Trained Nurses, a bouquet of flowers, the perfume of which is not more sweet than the affection which prompts our gift.

The bouquet of roses, iris, gladiola and asparagus fern was tied with emerald green ribbon.

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